

Imago Dei Christian Community Message 2/12/06

Notes and Quotes - Radical Grace*

Is 61:1-3 - The Spirit of the Sovereign LORD is on me, because the LORD has anointed me to preach good news to the poor.

He has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim freedom for the captives and release from darkness for the prisoners,^{a 2} to proclaim the year of the LORD's favor and the day of vengeance of our God, to comfort all who mourn,³ and provide for those who grieve in Zion—to bestow on them a crown of beauty instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, and a garment of praise instead of a spirit of despair.

They will be called oaks of righteousness, a planting of the LORD for the display of his glory.

Mark 2:13-17 - ¹³ Jesus went out again beside the sea; the whole crowd gathered around him, and he taught them. ¹⁴ As he was walking along, He saw Levi, son of Alphaeus sitting at the tax booth, and he said to him, "Follow me." And he got up and followed him. ¹⁵ And as he sat at dinner in Levi's house, many tax collectors and sinners were also sitting with Jesus and his disciples—for there were many who followed him. ¹⁶ When the scribes of the Pharisees saw that he was eating with sinners and tax collectors, they said to his disciples, "Why does he eat with tax collectors and sinners?" ¹⁷ When Jesus heard this, he said to them, "Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick; I have come to call not the righteous but sinners."

Luke 5:27-31 - ²⁷ After this, Jesus went out and saw a tax collector by the name of Levi sitting at his tax booth. "Follow me," Jesus said to him, ²⁸ and Levi got up, left everything and followed him. ²⁹ Then Levi held a great banquet for Jesus at his house, and a large crowd of tax collectors and others were eating with them. ³⁰ But the Pharisees and the teachers of the law who belonged to their sect complained to his disciples, "Why do you eat and drink with tax collectors and 'sinners'?" ³¹ Jesus answered them, "It is not the healthy who need a doctor, but the sick. ³² I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance."

Sunday Circle Questions

(Feel free to change these as you like)

How has God spoken to you today?

Who are your Levis? In other words, who are the ones you give yourself permission to isolate, alienate, and imprison with your contempt (E.g. – Muslims? Homosexuals? Tattooed/Pierced "punks"? Drug addicts / dealers, Loud haoles from Jersey?, etc.)

- What makes it so hard to be gracious and compassionate toward them?

What must change in YOU – not in the Levis of this world – in order for you to be able to see the "starvation for grace" and not just the ugly sinner before you?

For home:

Pray for your personal "Levis" this week as a spiritual sacrifice to God. They can be specific people or groups of people you have seen (e.g. the gang that hangs out down the street.)

* If you wish to download Imago Dei sermons please visit our blog site at: www.imagodeihawaii.org